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THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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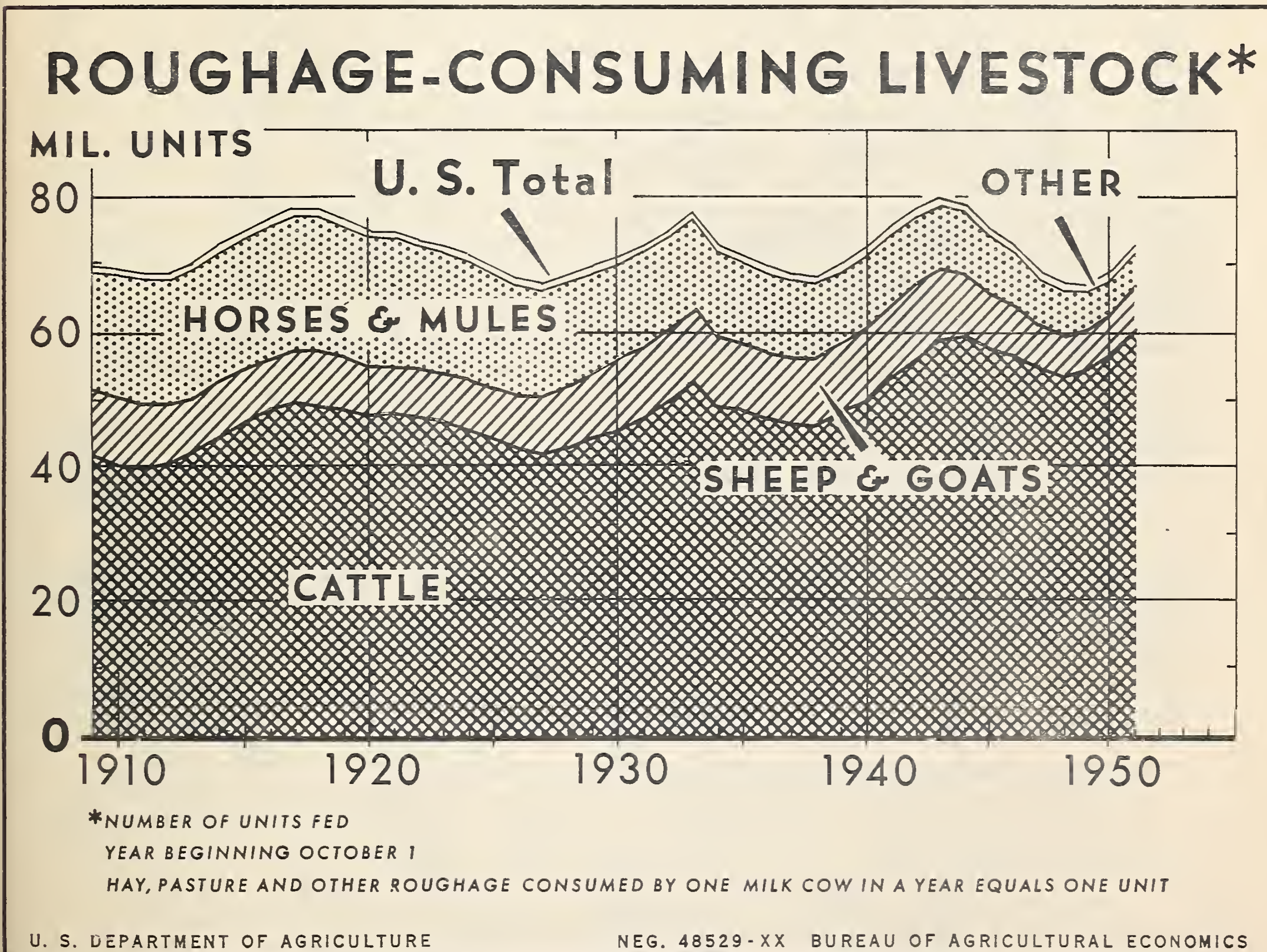
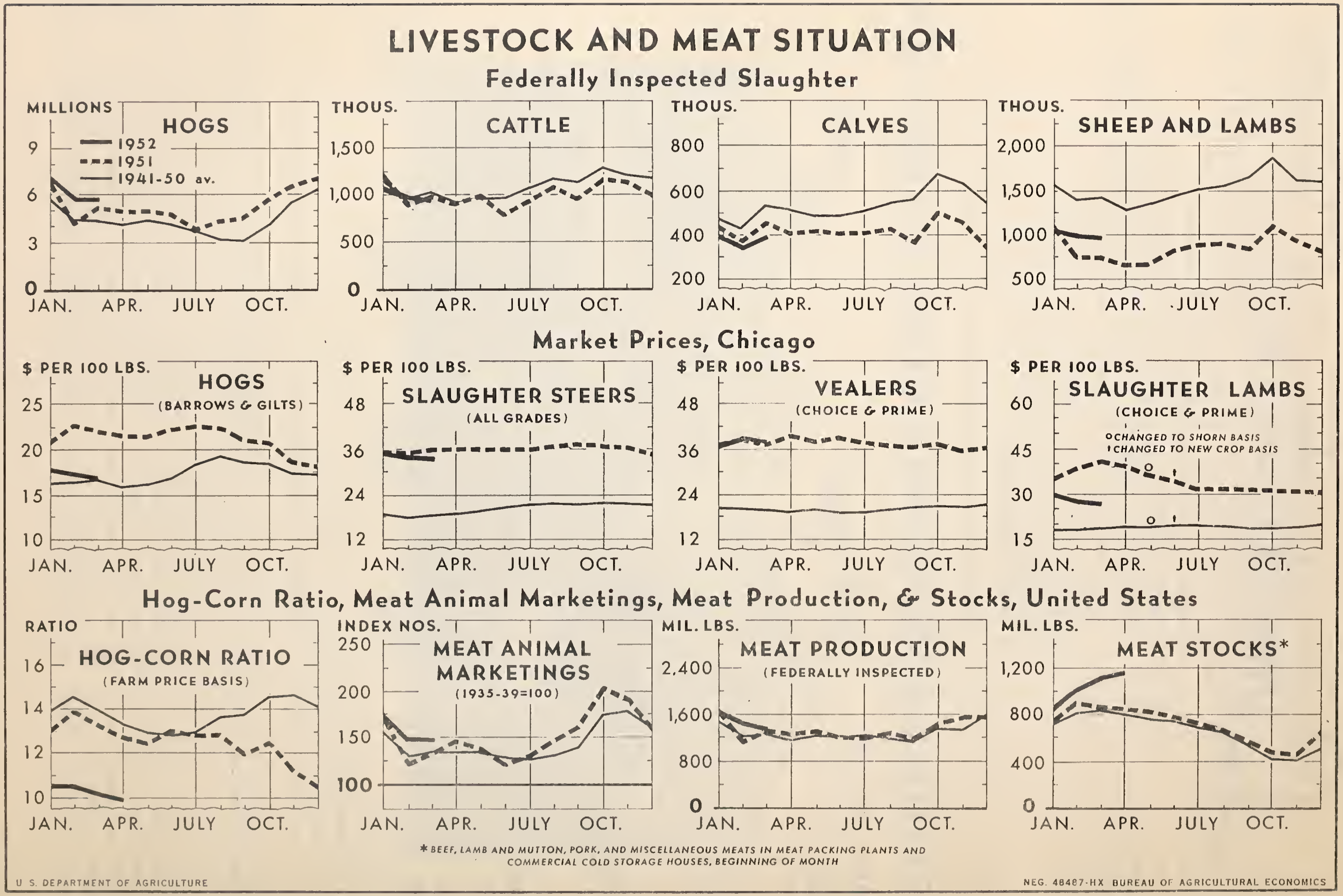
In this issue:
- Rank of States in Livestock Numbers and Production
- Trends in Cattle numbers



Numbers of roughage-consuming livestock have traced broad up-and down swings. They are now climbing, due chiefly to increasing cattle numbers. In past years when livestock numbers were at peaks, pastures and ranges were overgrazed in some areas. Notable improvements in hays and pastures have taken place in recent years, and fewer horses, mules and sheep are on farms than in previous periods. Assuming the improvement in hay and pastures continues, it would appear that our grazing resources could support a moderate further increase in the number of cattle within the next few years. A marked further expansion in the next few years, however, would raise question as to the adequacy of resources.


LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION
Federally Inspected Slaughter
MILLIONS
HOGS
1952
1951
1941-50 av.
9
6
3
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
CATTLE
1,500
1,000
500
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
CALVES
800
600
400
200
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
SHEEP AND LAMBS
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
Market Prices, Chicago
$ PER 100 LBS.
HOGS
(BARROWS & GILTS)
25
20
15
10
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER STEERS
(ALL GRADES)
48
36
24
12
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
VEALERS
(CHOICE & PRIME)
48
36
24
12
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER LAMBS
(CHOICE & PRIME)
o CHANGED TO SHORN BASIS
ı CHANGED TO NEW CROP BASIS
60
45
30
15
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States
RATIO
HOG-CORN RATIO
(FARM PRICE BASIS)
16
14
12
10
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
INDEX NOS.
MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS
(1935-39=100)
250
200
150
100
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
MIL. LBS.
MEAT PRODUCTION
(FEDERALLY INSPECTED)
2,400
1,600
800
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
MIL. LBS.
MEAT STOCKS*
1,200
800
400
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
* BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 48487-HX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 25, 1952

SUMMARY

Higher output of meat and lower prices for meat animals than last year have featured the livestock and meat situation to date in 1952. Commercial meat production in the first 3 months of 1952 was 8 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest for the quarter since 1946. Production of lamb and mutton was up 21 percent from last year and of pork 14 percent. Production of beef and veal was about the same as last year.

Meat production in the next few months promises to continue well above the small production of the same time last year. The increase over 1951 will narrow later in 1952, when there will be more beef than last year but less pork.

The rather large meat output so far in 1952 is resulting chiefly from expanded grain feeding of the past year. However, smaller supplies of grain feed, reflected in lower feeding-price ratios, are tending to restrict feeding. Since last September the number of sows farrowing has probably been below the previous year. As a result, marketings of hogs and production of pork the rest of 1952 are expected to be smaller than in the same period last year. Cattle on feed in the Corn Belt on April 1 were 3 percent above a year earlier after having been 6 percent above on January 1. Numbers on feed in Western States also were up less on April 1 than they had been on January 1. Marketings of fed cattle this spring and early summer will be large and will likely exceed last year. Marketings of fed cattle may continue to show some gain over 1951 in early and mid-fall, but seem less likely to do so later.

Reflecting the expansion in cattle production that began in 1949 and is still going on, marketings of cattle off grass in months ahead will probably exceed last year. Marketings of lambs the rest of 1952 may average a little above a year before. The gain over 1951 will be considerably less than in the first 4 months.

Prices for meat animals, especially lambs and hogs, have been considerably below a year earlier. In mid-April, prices received by farmers for hogs averaged $4.20 per 100 lb. below a year earlier while cattle were down $2.50 and lambs were off $7.90. Lamb prices declined steadily from October to March, bringing lamb feeders their poorest returns since 1937-38. However, lamb prices strengthened after mid-March.

Prices for meat, on the other hand, have been nearly as high as last year. In April only pork was lower than last April. Relatively lower prices for meat animals than meat are traceable to substantially lower values for all byproducts--hides, wool, lard, and others--and to a price margin between live animals and meats that has been wider than the unusually narrow marketing margins of early 1951.

Prospects for the next two or three months are for seasonally rising prices for all meat animals except the higher grades of cattle, which may decline at the time of peak marketings this spring. Prices of cattle and lambs seem likely to remain below last year, but prices of hogs may rise to or above the same months of 1951.

The pig crop this fall is likely to be considerably smaller than the 1951 fall crop. The hog-corn price ratio has recently been below average and discouraging to production. Expected price increases for hogs will not appear soon enough to affect fall farrowings appreciably. If feed grain crops are average or better this year, hog production may be considerably more profitable next winter than in the past season.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Meat Output above Last Year

Production of meat to date this year has exceeded a year earlier. Commercial production in the first quarter was 8 percent larger than last year, and the largest for that quarter since 1946. Nearly all of the increase over last year was in lamb and mutton (21 percent) and pork (14 percent). Production of beef and veal changed little (table 1). Meat production continued to top last year in April.

Table 1.- Commercial meat production, United States, by quarter-year 1950 to first quarter 1952.

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Year
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
			All meats		
1950	5,076	4,740	4,767	5,648	20,231
1951	5,124	4,652	4,658	5,597	20,031
1952	5,537				
			Beef		
1950	2,231	2,221	2,415	2,381	9,248
1951	2,188	1,965	2,142	2,259	8,554
1952	2,217				
			Veal		
1950	263	277	312	285	1,137
1951	220	216	271	265	972
1952	211				
			Lamb and mutton		
1950	150	139	149	143	581
1951	130	108	127	139	504
1952	157				
			Pork excluding lard		
1950	2,432	2,103	1,891	2,839	9,265
1951	2,586	2,363	2,118	2,934	10,001
1952	2,952				

With larger supplies available, consumption of meat in the first quarter was above last year. Preliminary data indicate a rise from 35.6 pounds per person in the first quarter last year to around 36-36½ pounds this year. Consumption was larger for pork and lamb but smaller for beef and veal.

Meat Animal Prices Lower

Prices of meat animals have been lower than in early months of 1951, when they were climbing towards new highs. The biggest reduction has been in prices of lambs. The United States average price received by farmers for lambs on April 15 was $7.90 per hundred pounds less than the price in April 1951. Prices for beef cattle were down $2.50 and for hogs $4.20.

Only to a small extent are lower prices for meat animals attributable to changes in prices of meat. The retail price of pork in April was several cents per pound lower than last April, but the price of beef and of lamb was about the same as last April. Reduced prices for pork reflect in part the larger supply. However, demand for pork, especially for the fat cuts, is a little weaker than last year. Demand for pork was strengthened in 1951 because of a shortage of beef at ceiling prices, and due to temporary strength in the fatter cuts of pork. The ratio of retail value of pork consumption to incomes in 1951 amounted to nearly 2.4 percent as compared with 2.2 percent in 1950 (table 2). Indications in the first quarter in 1952 are that the ratio may be returning to about its 1950 level.

Table 2.- Retail value of meat consumed compared with disposable personal income, by kinds of meat, 1950 and 1951

Year	Consumption per person 1/			Average retail price per pound 2/			Retail value of consumption as percentage of disposable personal income		
	All meat	Beef	Pork	All meat	Beef	Pork	All meat	Beef	Pork
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950	143.7	63.0	68.8	59.5	73.5	46.4	5.5	2.7	2.2
1951	138.2	56.2	72.1	65.8	85.7	50.4	5.5	2.6	2.4

1/ Carcass weight equivalent per civilian consumer.
2/ U.S. average. Price for all meat is weighted by consumption of each meat.

The chief reasons prices of meat animals have declined so much relative to retail prices of meat are that prices for by-products are much lower, and that marketing margins are wider. Prices of virtually all by-

products--hides, wool and pelts, lard, tallow and others--are much lower than last year. Marketing margins--the difference between the value of live animals and of meat and other products--were unusually small at this time in 1951, when prices of meat animals were rising but prices of meat were restricted by ceilings. Marketing margins have increased considerably since that time.

That prices for fat cuts of pork and for lard are off more than prices for lean cuts is shown by the comparisons in table 3. Prices of loins, hams and picnics in 3 weeks of April this year were down 7, 6 and 11 percent respectively from last April; prices of bacon were down 16 percent; but prices of dry salt backs and lard were off 33 and 28 percent (table 3). Prices of loins and hams are higher compared with last year than are the other pork products partly because prices of loins and hams were restricted most by price controls last year. However, more important is the fact that prices of fat cuts and lard strengthened under the inflationary demands of 1951, but have declined since. Almost continuously since 1947, except for 1951, prices of fat cuts and lard have tended to weaken relative to lean cuts.

Table 3.- Prices for barrows and gilts and for major pork products at wholesale, Chicago, average for 3 weeks in April, 1950-52

Commodity	Price per 100 pounds, av. for: 3 weeks in April			Percentage change in price	
	1950	1951	1952	April 1952 from April 1951	April 1952 from April 1950
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars		
Barrows and gilts 1/	16.09	21.17	16.68	- 21.2	+ 3.7
Loins, 8-10 lb.	38.85	44.20	41.08	- 7.1	+ 5.7
Hams, 12-16 lb.	47.25	55.37	51.83	- 6.4	+ 9.7
Bacon, 6-8 lb.	42.00	47.03	39.58	- 15.8	- 5.8
Picnics, smoked 4-8 lb. av.	32.50	41.63	37.17	- 10.7	+ 14.4
Backs, dry salt, 16-20 lb. av.	12.33	15.87	10.58	- 33.3	- 14.2
Lard, refined, 1-lb. cartons	12.83	20.63	14.75	- 28.5	+ 15.0

1/ Av. all weights and grades.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA

Large Feeding Programs Source of Much of Early 1952 Meat Supply; But Feed Supply now a Limiting Factor

Large feeding programs contributed much of the increased meat supply in the first few months of 1952. On January 1, 11 percent more cattle and 15 percent more lambs were on feed than a year before. Hogs fed out and marketed this winter came from the 1951 spring pig crop, which was the second largest on record.

Smaller supplies of feed grains together with lower returns from livestock have tended to restrict that part of livestock production dependent on grain feed. The biggest reduction has been in hogs. Beginning in September, fewer sows farrowed fall pigs than a year before and farmers' intentions on December 1 were for 8 percent fewer to farrow spring pigs this year than last. (Actual farrowings will be reported June 19.)

Hog marketings and slaughter, which for many months have exceeded the previous year, are now about down to the levels of last year. Weights of hogs marketed have recently been lighter than last year. Slaughter will drop further relative to 1951. Slaughter this summer will be less than last summer, and the reduction from a year ago will be greater next fall and winter.

On April 1, the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt, though still large, was only 3 percent above last April. In January, the same States showed 6 percent more on feed than last January. The number on feed in California and Colorado on April 1 was substantially above last year, but the percentage increase was much less than on January 1. Fewer were on feed in Idaho this April than last.

Cattle on feed in the Corn Belt included somewhat more steers and fewer calves than last April. According to the report for Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, those on feed included more that had been on feed 3 months or longer.

Slaughter of grain-fed cattle will continue large this spring and much of the summer, and will probably exceed last year at that time. The number slaughtered this fall will depend partly on whether placements on feed in early summer hold up better than last year, when they fell sharply during the period just after cattle price ceilings went into effect. In view of this uncertainty, the most likely prospect at present is that marketings of grain fed cattle in early to mid-fall will be moderately above last fall. Marketings later are less likely to show a gain over 1951, but the total for the season may be at least equal to last year.

Total Cattle Marketings to Exceed Last Year

Unlike grain feeding operations, production of livestock from forage and pasture continues to expand. An increase of 6 million head in cattle numbers on farms during 1951 will result in larger total marketings and slaughter of cattle this year than last. Much of the gain, especially in the second half of the year, will be in cattle marketed off grass.

Small slaughter of cows and heifers in the first few months this year indicates a continued uptrend in cattle numbers and production.

Marketings and slaughter of sheep the rest of this year may average larger than in the same period of 1951, but by a much smaller percentage than in the first 4 months when a large part of the marketings came from expanded feeding operations.

Total livestock marketings and meat production are expected to remain above last year. Output of meat this spring and summer will continue substantially above 1951, as the seasonal decline will be no sharper than last year. Output this fall, however, may be up from last year by a smaller percentage. The increased beef supply at that time may only a little more than offset the reduction in pork.

Production of all meat for 1952 may total large enough for consumption per person to rise to 141 pounds from the 138 pounds for 1951. 1/

Higher Price Trends Expected

Prices this spring and early summer are expected to move upward seasonally, except possibly for weakness in prices of fed cattle at times of peak marketings. Springtime demand for grazing cattle will probably support prices of cows and lower grade steers. If demand for meat retains its present strength, prices of hogs and lambs are expected to increase. Sometime this summer hog prices may reach those of a year earlier. Prices of lambs and cattle, however, seem unlikely to equal those of last year.

By late summer or early fall, the usual seasonal reversal of price trends may again take place. Prices of fed cattle may move higher at that time, while prices of other classes of meat animals are more likely to decrease. Hog prices this fall may decline no more than usual and may stay equal to or a little above last fall.

Little Change in Feed Grain Acreages Planned by Farmers

If farmers plant no more corn and other feed grains than they intended in March and approximately average yields per acre are obtained, production of meat animals from grain could not expand much in the next year or so. Production of hogs and pork in 1953 would remain below the level of 1951 and early 1952, preventing much increase in total meat output despite the expected continued rise in beef.

Farmers intended to plant slightly more acres in corn this year and 3 percent more oats. They planned to reduce the barley and grain sorghum acreage. More of the corn acreage would be in higher-yielding areas. At average yields, production of feed grains this year would be 6 percent larger than last year. But since carryovers of old grain this fall will be smaller than last fall, the total supply of feed grains for the new feeding year would be no larger than for the current year.

Acreage intentions give at best only very rough indications of probable feed grain production, since actual acreages always differ somewhat from intentions and because yields per acre usually affect the size of grain crops more than do the changes in acreage.

1/ Preliminary estimate for 1951. This as well as estimates for several earlier years will be revised slightly when revised data on farm slaughter back to 1946 are released.

Fall Pig Crop to be Smaller

The 1952 fall pig crop will in all probability be smaller than the big crop of 40 million pigs saved last fall. The reduction may be fairly large.

An unfavorable hog-corn price ratio this winter and spring is the main factor pointing to a reduction in fall pigs. As a rule, farmers reduce the number of sows to farrow when the price ratio during the spring is below average. The ratio in April was 9.8, less than average and less than the ratio of 12.7 in April 1951. Hogs were lower in price and corn higher this April than last.

Studies have shown that the hog-corn ratio during breeding season is not an accurate guide to the profitableness of raising the following pig crop. Conditions often change greatly between the breeding and marketing season. This year the hog-corn price ratio is likely to improve gradually if the corn crop is fairly large, and to be higher next winter than it has been lately. Thus, if corn yields are good and demand for meat is well maintained, hog production appears likely to be more profitable next winter than in the past season.

A sharp upturn in hog prices and bright prospects for the corn crop by mid-summer might prove encouraging for late-fall farrowings and prevent the total fall pig crop from being reduced as much as now seems likely.

Returns from Lamb Feeding Poor.

Lamb feeders who bought lambs last fall and sold them during the winter had, on the average, returns at least as low as in 1947-48 and possibly lower than in any year since 1937-38. (See table 4.) Returns this winter contrast with much above average returns realized in the 1950-51 feeding season.

Both feeder lambs and feed were higher in price this year than last. At the beginning of the marketing season, prices of slaughter lambs were as high as the year before, but they declined more than $4.00 per 100 pounds from early December to their low in mid-March. Prices advanced after mid-March.

Returns to individual feeders varied from the averages calculated in table 4. The data in the table apply to a representative feeding program and include the principal but not all cost and receipt items.

New Wool Price Support Schedules Announced

A schedule of prices for the support of shorn wool by loan and pulled wool by purchase under the 1952 wool price support program was announced by the Department of Agriculture on March 31. The supports on shorn wool will conform to the program announced in February. Non-recourse loans on shorn wool will be made to producers through handlers who represent producers or producer pools. Loans will be made following appraisal, but an advance recourse loan will be available prior to final appraisal. Loan rates are quoted on a Boston basis and calculated on a national average support of 54.2 cents per pound, grease basis, for the 1952-53 marketing year.

A wool price support program is required by the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Table 4.- Average prices and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1946-47 to 1951-52

Item	1946-1947	1947-1948	1948-1949	1949-1950	1950-1951	1951-1952
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Price per 100 pounds of Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March 1/	23.34	23.83	25.72	24.33	36.35	28.82
Price per 100 pounds of Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December	17.73	21.29	22.90	23.16	29.35	31.61
Price per bushel received by farmers for corn, North Central States October-March	1.292	2.222	1.190	1.093	1.473	1.620
Price per ton received by farmers for alfalfa hay, baled, North Central States, October-March	2/23.00	2/25.00	25.25	21.68	21.98	21.48
	Total value					
Market value at Chicago of Choice and Prime 85 pound slaughter lambs 1/	19.84	20.26	21.86	20.68	30.90	24.50
Market cost at Omaha of 60 pound feeder lambs	10.64	12.77	13.74	13.90	17.61	18.97
Cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of corn	3.23	5.56	2.98	2.73	3.68	4.05
Cost of 150 pounds of alfalfa hay	1.72	1.88	1.89	1.63	1.65	1.61
Total of cost items shown 3/	15.59	20.21	18.61	18.26	22.94	24.63
Margin of market value per lamb over total of cost items shown 3/	4.25	.05	3.25	2.42	7.96	-.13

1/ Formerly Good and Choice. New grades were effective April 30, 1951.
2/ Estimated from U.S. average price paid for baled alfalfa hay.
3/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

Income for Wool Higher in 1951 than 1950

Cash receipts from production of shorn wool in 1951 were 225 million dollars, nearly twice the receipts of 1950. Production was up 10 million pounds or 5 percent. Wool prices climbed to high levels in the early months of 1951, and averaged much higher than in 1950 despite a continuous down-trend during most of the last 9 months of the year (table 5).

Production of pulled wool was low in 1951, reflecting the smallest slaughter of sheep and lambs since records began in 1899.

Prices and receipts from mohair also were higher in 1951 than in 1950 (table 6).

USDA Offers to Purchase Pork

On April 9 the Department of Agriculture announced that it would entertain offers of smoked shoulder picnics, smoked hams and bacon, to be purchased as a surplus removal measure and to be distributed through the National School Lunch Programs and other eligible outlets. Delivery would be made after the beginning of the new school year this fall.

The offer to purchase pork was made, the announcement stated, to divert from the market temporary burdensome supplies of pork which are resulting in unfavorable prices for producers.

By April 22, 10 million pounds of smoked skinned hams and 2 million pounds of bacon had been purchased.

Anthrax Outbreak in Mid-West and Texas; called "Out-of-season and Out-of-place."

Unusual outbreaks of anthrax have been reported in recent weeks in several States. Reports indicate that the greatest infection is occurring in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Texas, and is largely affecting swine herds. These outbreaks are unusual in that the malady is striking in areas where the disease has not been a problem before, has affected hogs more than cattle and sheep, and has appeared much earlier than usual. Ordinarily anthrax appears only in known infected areas and in late summer or early fall, and hits cattle and other grazing animals harder than hogs.

Foot-Mouth Area in Canada Widened

Additional cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been discovered in Canada since the outbreak was first diagnosed in February. An infection has been reported about 50 miles from the United States border. Infected cattle are being disposed of in the control campaign.

Table 5.- Production, price and income from wool, United States, 1944-50

Year	Sheep shorn number 1/	Weight per fleece	Production shorn wool	Price per pound	Cash receipts	Pulled wool production
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 lb.
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.4	143,513	73,500
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	129,135	70,500
1946	34,647	8.11	280.908	42.3	118,765	61,300
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	41.9	105,409	56,600
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	48.7	112,962	46,600
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.3	105,009	35,600
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422	57.3	123,340	32,400
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	99.5	224,515	24,900

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

Table 6.- Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1944-50 1/

Year	Goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production	Price per pound	Value
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.
1944	4,109	5.0	20,443	60.1	12,295
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951 3/	2,475	5.2	12,888	118.0	15,183

1/ Seven leading States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.
2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.
3/ Preliminary.

OPS Suspends Ceilings on Hides, Fats and Wool

The Office of Price Stabilization suspended price controls on 16 agricultural commodities at the producer level effective April 28. Included in the commodities are cattlehides, kips, calfskins, tallow, lard, animal waste materials, wool, wool tops, wool noils, wool waste and alpaca. All are now selling materially below ceilings.

The announcement of the suspension of ceilings made it clear that the action is not outright or permanent casting off of controls. Each suspension order includes a specific recontrol point which is below current ceilings but well above the current market price of each commodity. According to the announcement, when prices of a suspended commodity reach the recontrol point, ceilings will be reimposed.

World Cattle, Hog, Sheep Numbers Record High

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1952 are estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at a record level of 821 million head, 13 million above a year earlier. Increases were reported in North America, Asia and Europe while slight decreases occurred in South America and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand).

Some increase in world cattle numbers is in prospect for 1952; however, feed and forage resources may restrict much further expansion in some important cattle countries.

World hog numbers on January 1, 1952 also are estimated at a record high. The 305 million head are 3 percent above a year earlier. Almost all major pork producing countries increased hog numbers during 1951 but the countries of North America and Europe showed relatively greatest gains.

With hog prices less attractive in relation to feed prices, hog numbers are not likely to increase further during 1952. Limited feed grain supplies will discourage hog production in much of Europe and in the United States.

World sheep numbers have maintained an upward trend since 1947 and the 808 million estimated for January 1, 1952 were slightly above the previous record set in 1942. Recent gain in sheep numbers resulted from favorable economic and climatic conditions. However, declining wool prices since last spring and drought in Australia and the Union of South Africa make it unlikely that world numbers will increase much further during 1952.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MEATS AND CATTLE, 1951

Imports of meat into the United States in 1951 were the largest on record. Exports decreased somewhat from 1950. Data on exports and imports by countries of origin and destination are presented in table 7. Argentina was the biggest supplier of beef and veal. Most of the 142 million pounds received from Argentina was of canned beef. Canada supplied 82 million pounds of beef and veal, nearly all of it fresh, and Mexico sent in about 51 million pounds, most of it pickled and cured. Canada was the biggest

Table 7.- United States imports and exports of meat by principal countries of origin or destination, 1950 and 1951

Product and Calendar year	Exports and shipments to territories							
	Exports, product weight, by country of destination							Total exports and shipments, carcass weight equivalent 1/
	Canada	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Germany	Cuba	All other	Total	
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
Beef & veal								
1950	10.4	.02	.004	.001	.03	8.6	19.0	24.5
1951	8.3	0	.016	0	.05	4.3	12.6	17.1
Lamb & mutton								
1950	.008	0	0	0	.013	0.4	0.4	1.8
1951	.002	0	0	0	.008	0.2	0.2	1.2
Pork								
1950	5.9	14.3	.02	2.2	22.3	47.6	92.3	99.4
1951	21.9	14.8	.06	5.7	26.9	30.5	100.2	107.4
Sausage								
1950	0.1	.03	.002	.02	0.8	12.9	13.8	11.8
1951	0.4	0	0	0	0.1	9.1	9.6	8.1
Total meat								
1950	16.4	14.3	.02	2.2	23.1	69.5	125.5	137.5
1951	30.6	14.8	.08	5.7	27.0	22.8	122.6	133.8

Imports

Product and calendar year	Product weight, by country of origin										Total imports, carcass weight equivalent
	Canada	The Netherlands	Denmark	Poland	Argentina	Brazil	Uruguay	Mexico	All other	Total	
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
Beef & veal											
1950	62.2	--	--	--	90.4	8.8	22.8	0	14.7	198.9	332.0
1951	82.1	--	0.3	--	141.8	5.7	18.7	50.8	13.4	312.8	473.1
Lamb & mutton											
1950	2.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0.6	3.4	3.4
1951	2.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4.0	6.7	6.7
Pork											
1950	14.8	6.0	2.7	7.0	--	--	--	0	1.2	31.7	33.0
1951	22.5	16.2	4.2	5.1	--	--	--	0	1.0	49.0	50.2
Total meat											
1950	79.8	6.0	2.7	7.0	90.4	8.8	22.8	0	16.5	234.0	368.4
1951	107.3	16.2	4.5	5.1	141.8	5.7	18.7	50.8	18.4	368.5	530.7

1/ Includes exports and shipments to Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, except that data not available for Aug. 1951 to Dec. 1951.

Data for product weight compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States.

supplier of pork, with the Netherlands next in rank. Canada, Iceland and Australia provided most of the lamb that was imported. Exports of pork went mainly to Cuba, Canada and the Netherlands. For both Canada and the Netherlands, exports of pork almost exactly equaled imports.

Foreign trade of the United States in meat is always small in relation to total domestic production and consumption. Imports of beef last year amounted to 5 percent of consumption. Imports of pork were about ½ of one percent of production in this country, and exports were about 1 percent.

Less meat will be imported this year than last, chiefly because less will be available from foreign countries. All imports of meat as well as of live animals have been prohibited from Canada since February 25 when foot and mouth disease was discovered. Supplies of beef from Argentina will be smaller this year than last.

About 239,000 cattle and calves were imported from Canada in 1951. This was about half the number received in 1950. Imports for 1952 will be small, as they probably will include only those brought in during January and February (table 8). For the first time in a number of years, the United States exported cattle and beef to Canada in 1951. The movement was very small, however.

Table 8.- Imports of live cattle into the United States from Canada, free and dutiable, calendar years 1936-39, 1948, 1949, 1950 and preliminary 1951

Year	Dutiable: 700 pounds and over: Dairy	Dutiable: 700 pounds and over: Other	Dutiable: 700 pounds and over: Total	Dutiable: Up to 700 pounds: Under 200 pounds 1/	Dutiable: Up to 700 pounds: 200-699 pounds 2/	Dutiable: Up to 700 pounds: Total	Total dutiable cattle	Pure-bred (free)	Total cattle
	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
1936	6,686	136,533	143,219	55,695	35,149	90,844	234,063	10,346	244,409
1937	6,724	157,467	164,191	80,792	50,355	131,147	295,338	11,350	306,688
1938	7,442	75,529	82,971	45,645	9,147	54,792	137,763	9,080	146,843
1939	8,570	172,753	181,323	81,832	11,229	93,061	274,384	9,599	283,983
1948	84,275	214,645	298,920	23,571	96,335	119,906	418,826	42,853	461,679
1949	49,061	194,916	243,977	41,535	126,614	168,149	412,126	21,332	433,458
1950	46,591	173,000	219,591	38,985	179,709	218,694	438,285	22,610	460,895
1951	35,600	117,455	153,055	15,609	51,103	66,712	219,767	19,100	238,867

1/ Under 175 pounds for years 1936-38.
2/ 175 to 699 pounds for years 1936-38.

Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States and official records of the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Production of Canned Meat Larger in 1951

Production of canned meat under Federal inspection increased again in 1951. Output was almost 40 percent larger than in 1949, though less than during the war. With military takings much smaller than during the war, civilian consumption of canned meat apparently was a new high last year (table 9).

RANK OF STATES IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS 1/

In tables 10, 11 and 12 data are presented ranking the States according to number of cattle and sheep on farms January 1, 1952, the number of pigs saved in 1951, and the liveweight of farm production of each species in 1951. These data are intended to show the position of each State relative to the others in livestock numbers and production.

Similar data for the previous year were given in the May 1951 issue of this Situation. Reported numbers of livestock have been changed considerably, because of trends in production and also because of revisions in data required by the Census of 1950. The order of States has not changed much.

Outstanding points in the ranking of States are the leading position of Texas in total cattle, beef cattle and sheep; of Wisconsin in milk cows; and of Iowa in hogs. Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas all rank high in cattle. Southern States, though increasing their cattle production, still rank below many Western and mid-West States in cattle numbers. Florida is eleventh in number of beef cows, and Louisiana thirteenth. More comments on the position of various States in livestock numbers may be found in the May 1951 issue.

1/ Compiled by Mrs. Lucille Johnson.

Table 9.- Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1937-51

(Net product weight)

Year	Federally inspected production 1/	Imports 2/	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Commercial exports and shipments 3/	Ending stocks	USDA purchases 4/	Military purchases 5/	Apparent civilian distribution 6/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1937	308.1	88.1		396.2	21.9		0		374.3
1938	303.5	78.6		382.1	22.8		0		359.3
1939	406.8	85.9		492.7	23.9		0		468.8
1940	530.2	61.3		591.5	20.2		0		571.3
1941	883.9	104.3		988.2	26.7		188.4	75.5	697.6
1942	1,926.6	91.6		2,018.2	19.8		875.6	920.5	202.3
1943	2,051.2	105.5		2,156.7	9.9		1,024.8	680.5	441.5
1944	1,930.7	87.7		2,018.4	13.2	17.7	448.6	1,121.0	417.9
1945	1,926.1	54.8	17.7	1,998.6	13.5	18.1	359.6	970.9	636.5
1946	1,342.8	3.3	18.1	1,364.2	55.3	22.6	157.1	19.2	1,110.0
1947	1,099.4	28.7	22.6	1,150.7	64.3	27.3	---	31.1	1,028.0
1948	1,096.0	129.1	27.3	1,252.4	35.4	28.0	---	52.8	1,136.2
1949	1,039.7	72.3	28.0	1,140.0	25.7	27.2	---	23.0	1,064.1
1950	1,231.3	124.6	27.2	1,383.1	20.0	27.3	---	50.3	1,285.5
1951	1,441.2	153.0	27.3	1,621.5	17.1	34.6	---	232.0	1,337.8

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Bureau of Animal Industry.
2/ Canned beef only. Data from Department of Commerce.
3/ Includes shipments to Territories as reported through July 1951. Excludes shipments under lend-lease and UNRRA (1941-46) and the Civilian Supply Programs of the U.S. Department of the Army in foreign countries (1948-51). Data from Department of Commerce.
4/ Canned meats and meat food products officially graded for CCC. Does not include transfers of meat from the military to CCC or small quantities turned back to civilians or transferred to the military. Purchases from U.S. supplies or from imports.
5/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records. Not a complete listing of all canned meats purchased during the war years, but cover practically all of the canned meats purchased during the war for mass troop feeding. Includes imported canned meat and army rations and some meat and rations later transferred to CCC and UNRRA.
6/ Calculated from Federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U.S. production of canned meats.

Table 10.- Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1952

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (Cattle "not for milk")			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands
1	Texas	8,940	Texas	7,350	Texas	3,755
2	Iowa	5,507	Nebraska	3,948	Nebraska	1,337
3	Nebraska	4,646	Iowa	3,817	Kansas	1,166
4	Kansas	4,341	Kansas	3,464	Oklahoma	1,034
5	Wisconsin	3,916	South Dakota	2,242	South Dakota	995
6	Missouri	3,658	Missouri	2,224	Montana	948
7	Illinois	3,550	Oklahoma	2,120	Missouri	834
8	Minnesota	3,472	Illinois	2,024	Iowa	782
9	California	3,160	Montana	1,925	Colorado	732
10	Oklahoma	3,065	Colorado	1,812	California	706
11	South Dakota	2,826	California	1,811	Florida	647
12	Ohio	2,279	Minnesota	1,255	New Mexico	639
13	New York	2,222	Florida	1,250	Lousiana	604
14	Colorado	2,117	New Mexico	1,134	Wyoming	523
15	Montana	2,107	Wyoming	1,046	Illinois	481
16	Michigan	1,890	Lousiana	1,040	Mississippi	450
17	Indiana	1,886	North Dakota	988	North Dakota	411
18	Pennsylvania	1,790	Oregon	865	Arizona	405
19	Kentucky	1,722	Indiana	862	Alabama	404
20	Mississippi	1,686	Mississippi	831	Oregon	396
21	Tennessee	1,658	Kentucky	825	Arkansas	320
22	North Dakota	1,613	Arizona	812	Nevada	302
23	Lousiana	1,540	Idaho	764	Idaho	273
24	Florida	1,539	Alabama	762	Georgia	268
25	Alabama	1,485	Tennessee	714	Kentucky	265
26	Arkansas	1,381	Ohio	696	Tennessee	237
27	Virginia	1,269	Arkansas	686	Utah	231
28	Georgia	1,235	Georgia	627	Virginia	231
29	Oregon	1,228	Washington	564	Minnesota	229
30	New Mexico	1,213	Virginia	564	Indiana	223
31	Idaho	1,126	Nevada	554	Washington	207
32	Wyoming	1,124	Utah	510	Ohio	129
33	Washington	982	Michigan	408	West Virginia	103
34	Arizona	885	Wisconsin	373	North Carolina	77
35	North Carolina	796	Pennsylvania	311	South Carolina	70
36	Utah	679	West Virginia	273	Michigan	60
37	Nevada	589	North Carolina	229	Pennsylvania	43
38	West Virginia	588	South Carolina	172	Wisconsin	27
39	Maryland	481	New York	131	Maryland	26
40	Vermont	432	Maryland	107	New York	21
41	South Carolina	427	Maine	25	Maine	6
42	New Jersey	221	Vermont	20	New Hampshire	2
43	Maine	218	New Jersey	15	Vermont	2
44	Massachusetts	182	Massachusetts	11	Massachusetts	2
45	Connecticut	180	Delaware	10	New Jersey	2
46	New Hampshire	115	Connecticut	10	Delaware	2
47	Delaware	69	New Hampshire	10	Connecticut	1
48	Rhode Island	27	Rhode Island	1	Rhode Island	--
United States total		88,062		52,192		20,608

Table 11.- Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms January 1, 1952 and pigs saved 1951.

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over		All sheep and lambs		Number pigs saved 1/	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands
1	Wisconsin	2,407	Texas	6,176	Iowa	21,304
2	Minnesota	1,412	Wyoming	2,164	Illinois	11,064
3	New York	1,411	Colorado	1,924	Indiana	8,635
4	Iowa	1,123	California	1,900	Missouri	7,359
5	Texas	1,053	Montana	1,861	Minnesota	6,758
6	Ohio	1,019	New Mexico	1,451	Ohio	5,693
7	Missouri	984	Utah	1,405	Nebraska	4,889
8	Pennsylvania	960	Iowa	1,280	Wisconsin	3,706
9	Michigan	936	Ohio	1,249	South Dakota	2,745
10	Illinois	922	Idaho	1,085	Georgia	2,635
11	California	849	South Dakota	1,039	Kansas	2,462
12	Indiana	692	Missouri	1,008	Texas	2,308
13	Tennessee	668	Minnesota	924	Tennessee	1,984
14	Kentucky	655	Nebraska	871	Kentucky	1,936
15	Kansas	586	Illinois	726	Alabama	1,870
16	Mississippi	571	Oregon	686	North Carolina	1,857
17	Oklahoma	552	Kentucky	668	Michigan	1,648
18	Virginia	469	Kansas	619	Oklahoma	1,311
19	Nebraska	454	Nevada	475	Virginia	1,247
20	Arkansas	432	Indiana	457	Pennsylvania	1,101
21	Alabama	419	North Dakota	439	Arkansas	1,012
22	North Dakota	410	Michigan	433	Mississippi	944
23	North Carolina	376	Arizona	401	South Carolina	909
24	Georgia	372	Washington	326	Florida	819
25	South Dakota	350	Virginia	321	California	808
26	Louisiana	326	West Virginia	314	Lousiana	785
27	Vermont	276	Wisconsin	283	North Dakota	763
28	Washington	275	Tennessee	274	Colorado	448
29	Maryland	245	Pennsylvania	235	Maryland	424
30	Oregon	228	New York	155	New York	340
31	West Virginia	224	Oklahoma	153	Montana	324
32	Idaho	220	Lousiana	109	Idaho	311
33	Colorado	186	Mississippi	75	West Virginia	295
34	South Carolina	165	Maryland	45	Oregon	268
35	New Jersey	153	North Carolina	43	Washington	217
36	Florida	149	Arkansas	41	New Jersey	181
37	Massachusetts	125	Alabama	19	Utah	142
38	Connecticut	119	Maine	19	Massachusetts	127
39	Montana	119	New Jersey	13	Wyoming	122
40	Maine	114	Georgia	11	New Mexico	102
41	Utah	108	Vermont	10	Delaware	62
42	New Hampshire	66	Massachusetts	10	Maine	60
43	New Mexico	53	New Hampshire	8	Connecticut	42
44	Arizona	49	Connecticut	8	Arizona	36
45	Wyoming	49	South Carolina	4	Nevada	33
46	Delaware	39	Florida	3	Vermont	25
47	Rhode Island	20	Delaware	3	New Hampshire	22
48	Nevada	17	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	6
United States total		23,407		31,725		102,139

1/ Total of pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops of 1951.

Table 12.- Rank of States in liveweight of farm production of meat animals, 1951 1/

Rank	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	State	Production	State	Production	State	Production
		Mil. lbs.		Mil. lbs.		Mil. lbs.
1	Texas	2,153	Texas	143	Iowa	4,828
2	Iowa	1,699	California	100	Illionis	2,429
3	Nebraska	1,364	Colorado	92	Indiana	1,794
4	Kansas	1,336	Wyoming	91	Missouri	1,553
5	Illinois	994	Idaho	78	Minnesota	1,499
6	Missouri	979	Montana	75	Ohio	1,143
7	California	935	Iowa	62	Nebraska	1,091
8	Minnesota	933	Utah	59	Wisconsin	771
9	Oklahoma	842	Missouri	53	South Dakota	618
10	Wisconsin	818	South Dakota	47	Kansas	506
11	South Dakota	771	Minnesota	47	Texas	460
12	Colorado	642	Kentucky	44	Tennessee	406
13	Montana	598	Nebraska	44	Georgia	401
14	Ohio	518	New Mexico	43	Kentucky	384
15	Indiana	512	Ohio	42	North Carolina	327
16	North Dakota	425	Oregon	37	Alabama	322
17	Michigan	420	Kansas	36	Michigan	315
18	Kentucky	386	Illinois	35	Oklahoma	267
19	New York	381	Indiana	26	Virginia	244
20	Tennessee	362	North Dakota	22	Pennsylvania	219
21	Pennsylvania	335	Michigan	21	Arkansas	202
22	New Mexico	341	Nevada	20	Mississippi	169
23	Wyoming	318	Washington	19	North Dakota	164
24	Oregon	302	Virginia	18	California	157
25	Idaho	280	West Virginia	18	South Carolina	153
26	Mississippi	273	Arizona	17	Lousiana	117
27	Arkansas	267	Tennessee	14	Florida	104
28	Alabama	262	Wisconsin	14	Colorado	99
29	Virginia	246	Oklahoma	8	Maryland	77
30	Louisiana	242	Pennsylvania	7	West Virginia	66
31	Washington	235	New York	6	New York	64
32	Arizona	202	Maryland	2	Montana	64
33	Georgia	190	North Carolina	2	Idaho	58
34	Florida	188	Mississippi	1	Oregon	53
35	Utah	162	Lousiana	1	Washington	45
36	Nevada	146	Maine	1	New Jersey	33
37	West Virginia	120	Arkansas	1	Utah	25
38	North Carolina	115	Alabama	1	Massachusetts	24
39	Maryland	92	New Jersey	1/	Wyoming	24
40	Vermont	65	Massachusetts	1/	New Mexico	20
41	South Carolina	62	Connecticut	1/	Maine	12
42	New Jersey	44	Vermont	1/	Delaware	10
43	Maine	40	New Hampshire	1/	Connecticut	9
44	Rhode Island	32	Georgia	1/	Arizona	7
45	Massachusetts	28	Delaware	1/	Nevada	6
46	New Hampshire	21	Rhode Island	1/	Vermont	5
47	Delaware	12	South Carolina	1/	New Hampshire	4
48	Rhode Island	4	Florida	1/	Rhode Island	1
United States total		21,692		1,349		21,349

1/ Liveweight produced during year by livestock on farms. Preliminary data.
2/ Less than 500,000 lbs.

TRENDS IN CATTLE NUMBERS

By Harold F. Breimyer

This continues a series of special articles dealing with trends in cattle

Numbers of cattle and calves on farms were increased during 1951 by 6 million head, the most ever added in a single year. The 88 million on farms January 1, 1952 were a new record high. Previously, numbers had been reduced from a peak in 1945 to a cyclical low in 1949, then rose 11 million head or nearly 15 percent from January 1949 to January 1952.

An expansion is still going on, though probably at a slower rate than in 1951.

This uptrend in production will bring substantial increases in numbers slaughtered. Projections of numbers on farms and numbers slaughtered annually were made to 1955 in the October, 1951 issue of this Situation. New projections, changed to conform to revised cattle numbers for 1946-51, are presented in this article. Forcasts of this sort are based on the uniformity observed in past cattle cycles.

A marked similarity between cycles in cattle numbers affords good grounds for anticipating future trends. Nevertheless, there is reason to examine the recent trends in cattle, to discover whether or not the present cycle appears "typical". Observations on the cycle to date will help to show whether future trends also are likely to conform to a usual pattern. Data and a brief discussion will be presented.

Changes in Numbers by Class of Cattle

In one respect at least the present cattle cycle is not typical: it has been far from uniform by various classes of cattle. In the last two previous upswings in total numbers (1928-34 and 1938-45) both milk and beef cattle participated. The increase this time has been almost entirely in beef cattle.

Numbers of all cattle for beef rose 26 percent between January 1949 and January 1952. Numbers of cattle for milk went up only 2 percent, and the gain was entirely in young stock (table 13). Differences between cows for beef and milk were even greater. Beef cows increased 30 percent and milk cows were reduced 2 percent in the last 3 years.

During the downtrend in cattle numbers between 1945 and 1949, beef cattle had also fared better than cattle for milk. Beef cows were decreased only 3 percent in those four years. Other kinds of beef cattle, notably steers, were cut back more than beef cows, principally because a back-log of slaughter cattle built up under wartime price controls was liquidated after the end of controls.

It seems, therefore, that trends in cattle since 1945 have comprised three separate developments: (1) slaughter cattle were held back during

wartime price control for sale in 1947, and withheld again in 1951; (2) numbers of milk cows have been reduced each successive year, as emphasis has been shifted from production of milk for butterfat to production of beef; (3) numbers of cows kept for beef have increased greatly.

Unless an expansion should soon begin in numbers of cattle for milk, the present upswing in total cattle numbers will have been generated by beef cattle alone. The total cyclical rise in cattle numbers could be as large this time as in previous cycles only if the increase in beef cattle should be greater than ever before in this century. The largest protracted expansion in beef cattle since 1900 was the 47 percent increase from 1939 to 1945. 1/

Table 13.- Changes in numbers of cattle on farms, by class, 1945-49 and 1949-52

Class	Number January 1			Percentage change in numbers		
	1945	1949	1952	1945 to 1949	1949 to 1952	1945 to 1952
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	Percent	Percent
All cattle and calves	85,573	76,830	88,062	- 10.2	+ 14.6	+ 2.9
Milk cattle 1/	40,849	35,270	35,870	- 13.7	+ 1.7	- 12.2
Cows	27,770	23,862	23,407	- 14.1	- 1.9	- 15.7
Heifers	6,307	5,327	5,726	- 15.5	+ 7.5	- 9.2
Heifer calves	6,772	6,081	6,737	- 10.2	+ 10.8	- 0.5
Beef cattle 2/	44,724	41,560	52,192	- 7.1	+ 25.6	+ 16.7
Cows	16,456	15,919	20,608	- 3.3	+ 29.5	+ 25.2
Heifers	5,069	4,657	5,890	- 8.1	+ 26.5	+ 16.2
Calves	12,871	12,033	15,541	- 6.5	+ 29.2	+ 20.7
Steers	8,329	7,270	8,373	- 12.7	+ 15.2	+ 0.5
Bulls	1,999	1,681	1,780	- 15.9	+ 5.9	- 11.0

1/ Cattle and calves "for milk".
2/ Cattle and calves "not for milk".

1/ The increase from 1912-18 was of about the same scale, though data do not permit an exact comparison.

Regions of Increase in Numbers

Although the increase in cattle numbers the last 3 years has been general, some regions have expanded faster than others. All States except New Hampshire reported an increase--and the reduction in that State was only 0.9 percent. Southern States made the greatest percentage gains. The South Atlantic States led with a 22 percent gain and the South Central States were next with 18 percent. The West North Central Region had a 16 percent rise over the 3 years. The increase in the West was 13 percent, in the East North Central 10 percent, and in the North Atlantic Region, 5 percent (table 14).

Regional changes, like national totals, are different for beef than for milk cattle. In all regions, the number of beef cows increased substantially from January 1949 to January 1952. The percentage gain by regions was nearly uniform except for the West. Only in the Western region and in Texas was it less than the United States average. Changes in milk cows by regions were consistently small. No State or region showed a large increase or decrease. (See charts.)

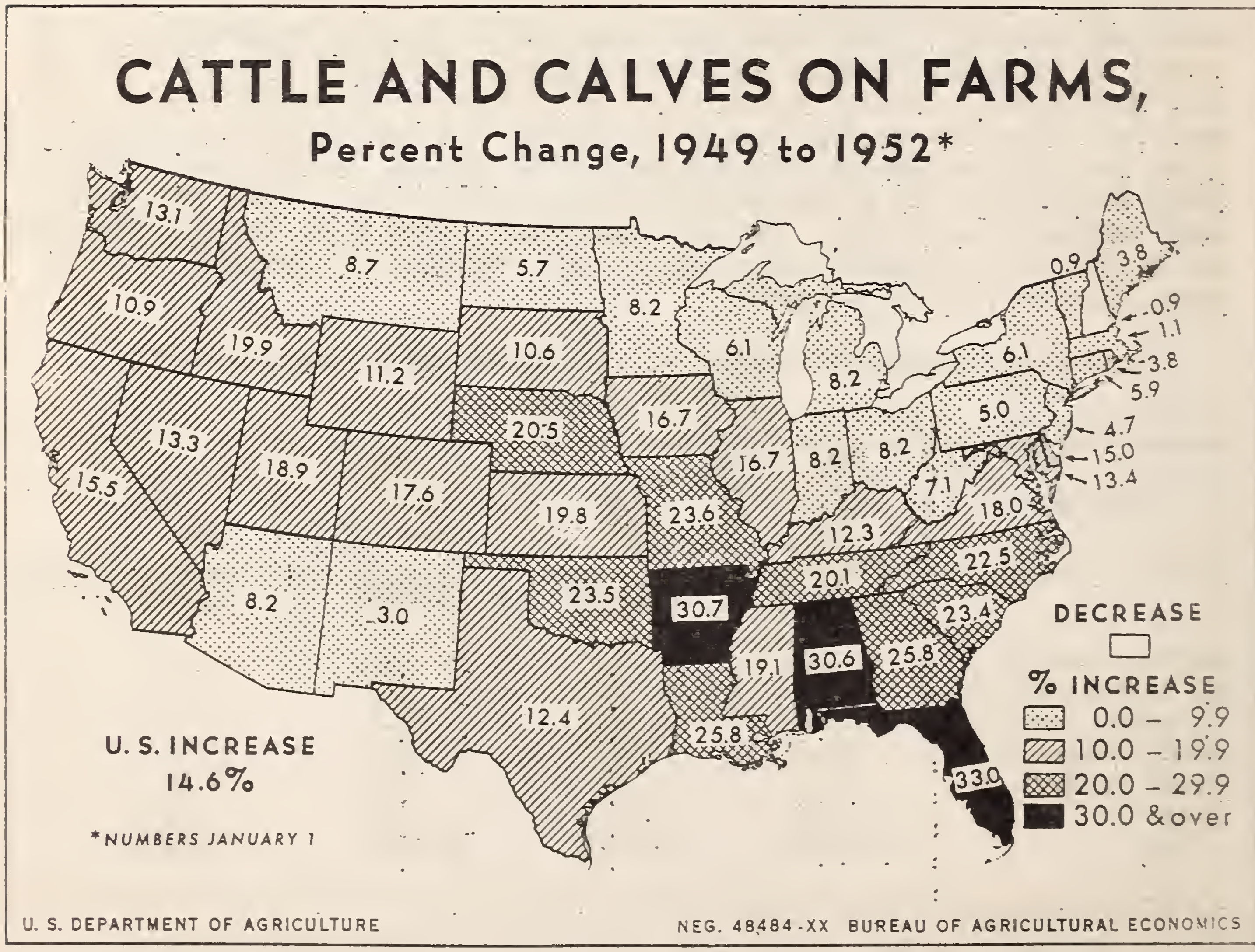
Since changes in beef cows differed little by regions except in the West, and changes in milk cows also were fairly uniform, regional rates of change in total cow numbers varied according to the importance of milk and beef production. In the northeastern one-fourth of the United States where dairying predominates--the East North Central and North Atlantic regions--total cow numbers have gone up comparatively little. In the other regions where beef cattle are a higher percentage of all cattle, total cow numbers have increased much more. The same conclusion holds true, broadly speaking, for numbers of all cattle and calves: dairy regions have had the least expansion, beef regions the most.

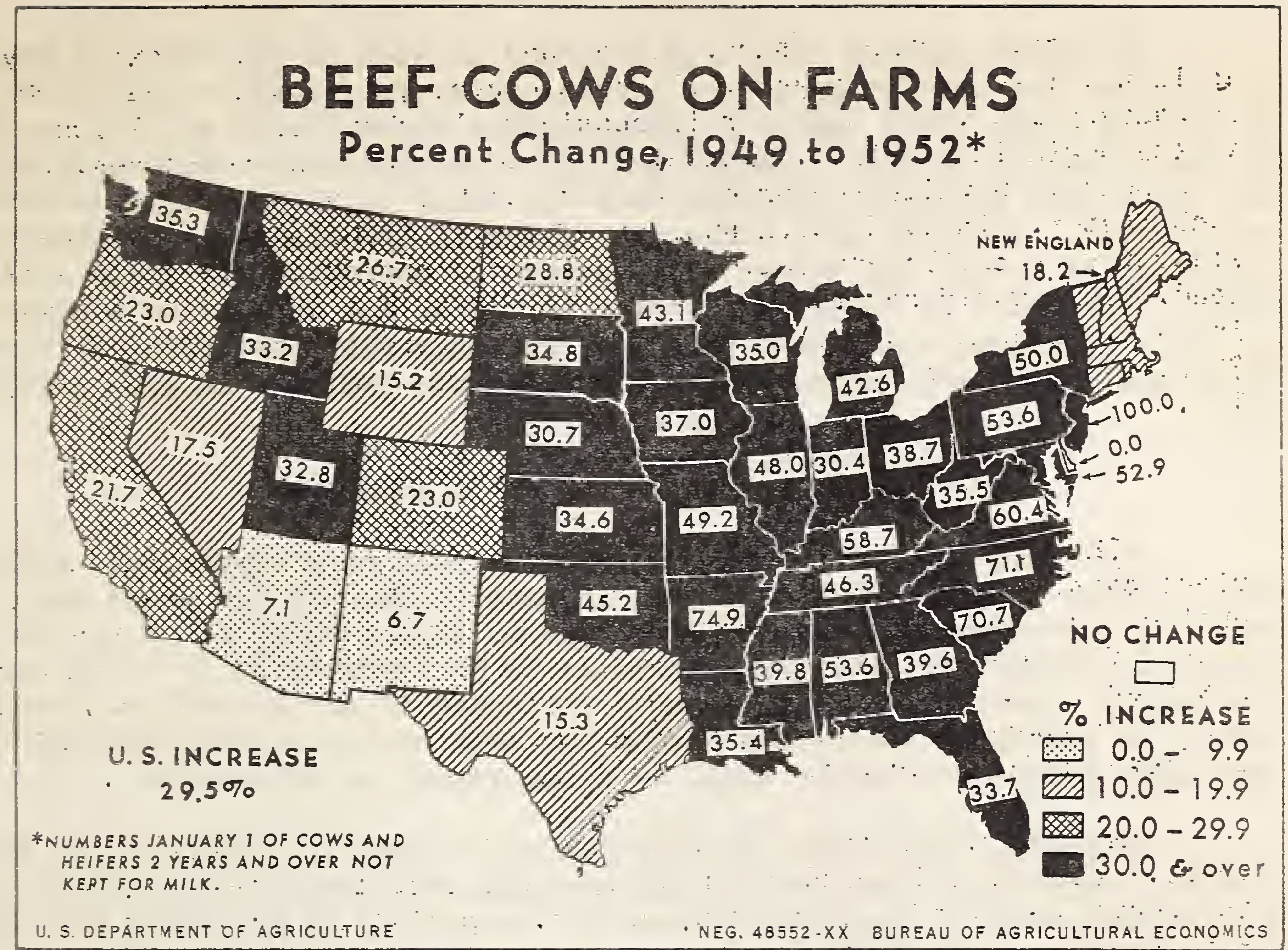
Table 14.- Change in numbers of all cattle and of cows on farms, 1949 to 1952 1/

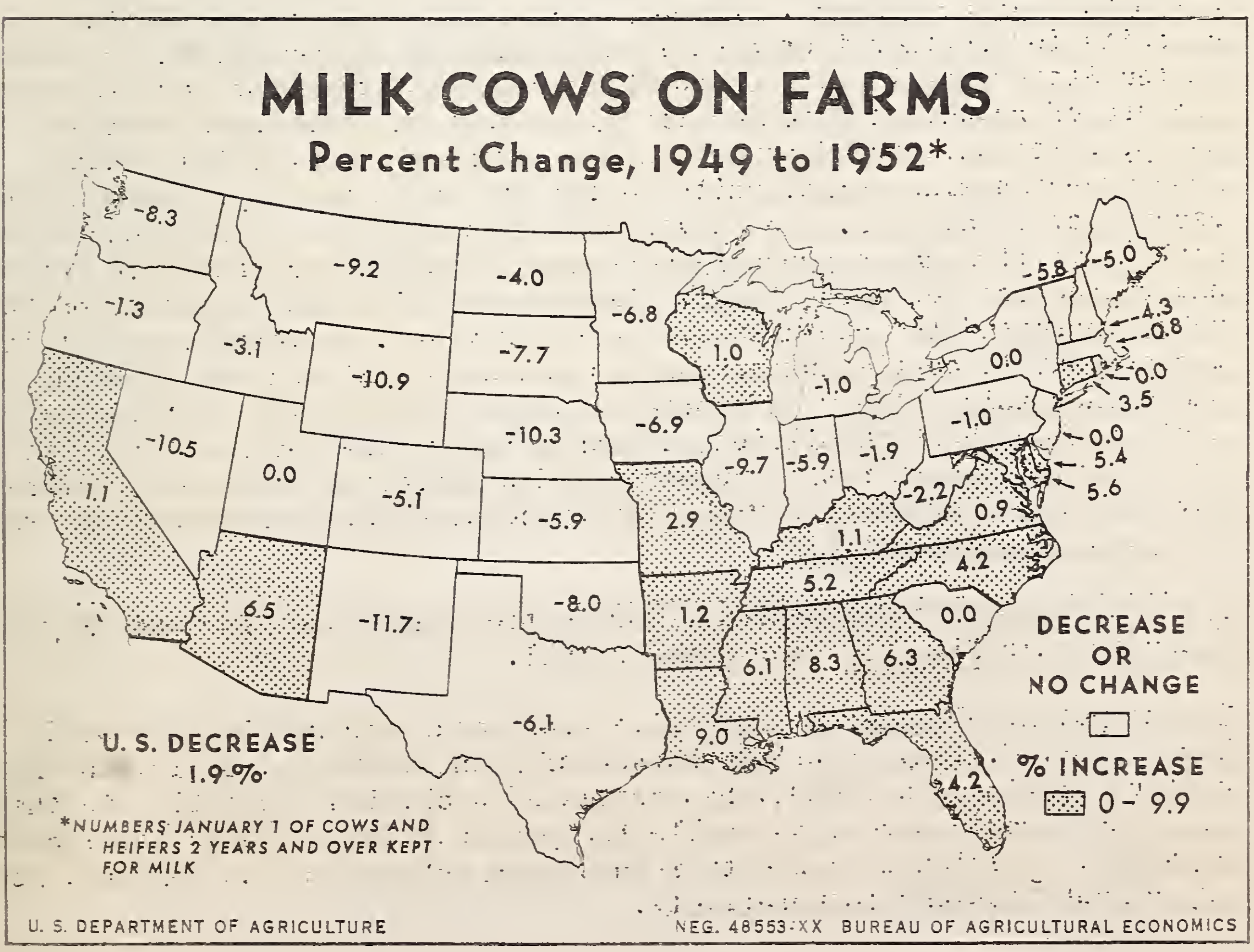
Region	All cattle and calves	Cows		
		All cows	Milk cows 3/	Beef cows 4/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
North Atlantic	+ 4.8	- 0.2	- 1.0	+ 46.3
E. North Central	+ 9.7	+ 1.8	- 2.4	+ 41.3
W. North Central	+ 16.1	+ 12.4	- 5.2	+ 35.8
South Atlantic	+ 22.1	+ 16.1	+ 2.9	+ 42.3
South Central 2/	+ 18.1	+ 15.5	+ 0.5	+ 28.2
West	+ 12.8	+ 12.5	- 2.7	+ 20.1
U.S.	+ 14.6	+ 10.6	- 1.9	+ 29.5

1/ Number January 1 each year.
2/ In the South Central except for Texas the respective percentages were + 22.6, + 19.8, + 2.5 and + 47.0.
3/ Cows and heifers 2 years and over for milk.
4/ Cows and heifers 2 years and over not for milk.

Throughout Eastern regions, beef cow numbers have apparently been built up about as rapidly as was possible. A slower rate of increase in the Mountain and Pacific West may be accounted for by several factors: new practices for pasture improvement may have made more progress in the East--especially the Southeast--than the West; limited rainfall in the West prevents as much increase in grazing capacity through use of fertilizers and other practices there as in the humid East; in regions east of the Rocky Mountains, dual-purpose cows are more numerous and their shift from milk to beef classification has provided a part of the increase in beef cows there; acreage diversion from cash crops to hay and pasture has been more extensive in Eastern regions than in the Mountain and Pacific West; and finally, the 1951 drought in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona limited expansion in cattle production in those States.




BEEF COWS ON FARMS
Percent Change, 1949 to 1952*
35.3
26.7
28.8
23.0
33.2
15.2
43.1
34.8
35.0
42.6
50.0
NEW ENGLAND
18.2
100.0
0.0
52.9
53.6
38.7
30.4
48.0
37.0
30.7
17.5
21.7
32.8
23.0
34.6
49.2
58.7
35.5
60.4
71.1
46.3
45.2
74.9
7.1
6.7
70.7
39.8
53.6
39.6
15.3
35.4
33.7
NO CHANGE
% INCREASE
0.0 - 9.9
10.0 - 19.9
20.0 - 29.9
30.0 & over
U. S. INCREASE
29.5%
*NUMBERS JANUARY 1 OF COWS AND HEIFERS 2 YEARS AND OVER NOT KEPT FOR MILK.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 48552-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS


MILK COWS ON FARMS
Percent Change, 1949 to 1952*
-8.3
-9.2
-4.0
-1.3
-6.8
-5.8
-5.0
4.3
-0.8
-3.1
-7.7
1.0
0.0
0.0
3.5
-10.9
-1.0
-10.5
-10.3
-6.9
-1.0
0.0
5.4
5.6
0.0
-5.1
-9.7
-5.9
-1.9
-2.2
1.1
-5.9
2.9
0.9
1.1
5.2
4.2
6.5
-11.7
-8.0
1.2
0.0
6.1
8.3
6.3
-6.1
9.0
4.2
DECREASE OR NO CHANGE
% INCREASE
0 - 9.9
U. S. DECREASE
1.9%
*NUMBERS JANUARY 1 OF COWS AND HEIFERS 2 YEARS AND OVER KEPT FOR MILK
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 48553-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Future Expansion Indicated by Cattle "Cycle"

If cattle numbers should be expanded as much in the next few years as is usual for that stage of the cattle cycle, they would reach 100 million by January 1955. This number is considerably above the 88 million on farms at the beginning of 1952. Annual slaughter of cattle and calves, which has been held down while the breeding herd was being built up, would increase much faster. In 1955, with numbers on farms at 100 million, the equivalent slaughter of cattle and calves would amount to approximately 38-39 million head. This would be almost 50 percent more than the 26 million slaughtered in 1951. Consumption of beef produced from this slaughter would be about 70 pounds per person, 14 more than the 56 pounds consumed in 1951 2/(table 15).

Grazing Resources as a Limit to Expansion

The above projections are derived entirely from comparisons with previous cattle cycles. Just as trends in cattle the last few years have not entirely corresponded to a so-called typical cycle, there is no certain reason for expecting previous experience to be repeated fully in the next few years. Events in that time could influence trends in cattle. For example, if consumer incomes and demand for meat should weaken seriously, the lower prices for cattle would be discouraging to production.

Moreover, limitations to capacity might restrain expansion in future years. Increases in production will probably continue to be greatest in the regions east of the Rocky mountains, especially in the South and the Plains regions. The fact that the really big rate of expansion has been confined to beef cattle in those regions suggests that the remaining potential may be limited. Although little information is available on the capacity for further increases in production in those regions or elsewhere, United States totals for all roughage consuming livestock are informative. Because of reductions from earlier years both in horses and mules and in sheep, which have freed hay and pasture resources for cattle, total roughage-consuming animal units in 1952 are well below previous highs despite record cattle numbers. (See cover chart and table 16.) Previous peaks of near 80 million units probably were above sustained capacity for grazing under practices of those times. Improvements in forage production have probably increased the capacity over earlier years. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that if cattle numbers should reach 100 million head by 1955, with sheep increasing slowly and horses and mules decreasing, total animal units would number about 80 million, as many or more than ever before. It is problematical whether this number could be safely maintained on present hay and grazing resources without very considerable improvement in range and pasture practices. 3/

2/ A more complete discussion of projections and bases for them may be found in this Situation for October 1951.

3/ The potential under an intensive grasslands program is undoubtedly very large. Mr. W.M. Myers of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, USDA, has estimated a physical potential in the South alone that would more than double the present United States total grazing capacity. Attainable capacity is now being studied by the BAE and State Experiment tations cooperatively.

Table 15.- Number of cattle and calves on farms and slaughtered, and quantity of beef and veal produced and consumed, 1940-51 and projections to 1955

Year	Number on farms Jan. 1	Slaughter		Meat produced: Beef		Meat produced: Veal		Meat consumed per person	
		Cattle	Calves	Per head slaughtered	Total	Per head slaughtered	Total	Beef	Veal
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Pounds	Mil. lb.	Pounds	Mil. lb.	Pounds	Pounds
1940	68,309	14,958	9,089	480	7,175	108	981	54.7	7.4
1941	71,755	16,419	9,252	492	8,082	112	1,036	60.5	7.6
1942	76,025	18,033	9,718	490	8,843	118	1,151	60.8	8.2
1943	81,204	17,845	9,940	480	8,571	117	1,167	52.9	8.2
1944	85,334	19,844	14,242	459	9,112	122	1,738	55.3	12.4
1945	85,573	21,691	13,645	474	10,275	122	1,661	59.0	11.8
1946	82,235	19,824	12,168	473	9,373	118	1,440	61.3	9.9
1947	80,554	22,393	13,695	466	10,428	117	1,599	69.1	10.7
1948	77,171	19,186	12,328	473	9,079	115	1,412	62.6	9.4
1949	76,830	18,769	11,345	503	9,448	117	1,322	63.5	8.7
1950	77,963	18,642	10,435	512	9,543	117	1,216	63.0	7.9
1951	82,025	1/17,140	1/8,877	1/517	1/8,855	1/118	1/1,048	1/56.2	1/6.5
	Projections based on trends in past cattle cycles								
1952	1/88,062	19,200	9,450	514	9,850	120	1,125	60	7
1953	92,300	20,100	10,000	505	10,150	119	1,200	63	7
1954	97,000	22,100	11,700	490	10,800	120	1,400	66	9
1955 2/	100,000	24,000	14,700	480	11,500	120	1,750	70	11

1/ Preliminary estimate.
2/ Slaughter in 1955 based on a nearly stationary level of cattle numbers.
Revises table 3 of this Situation for October 1951.

Table 16.- Units of roughage-consuming livestock fed each year beginning October 1, 1909-51 1/

(Data for cover page chart)

Year beginning October 1	Cattle	Sheep and goats	Horses and mules	Other 2/	Total
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1909	41,244	9,947	17,436	908	69,535
1910	40,394	10,010	17,856	1,012	69,272
1911	39,731	9,484	18,133	995	68,343
1912	40,207	8,841	18,406	975	68,429
1913	41,722	8,532	18,758	968	69,980
1914	44,097	8,022	19,006	1,021	72,146
1915	46,118	7,922	19,074	1,049	74,163
1916	48,102	7,699	19,245	1,007	76,053
1917	49,296	7,853	19,414	1,065	77,628
1918	48,858	8,291	19,401	1,113	77,663
1919	48,031	8,143	19,066	1,051	76,291
1920	47,141	7,829	18,771	1,025	74,766
1921	47,670	7,328	18,500	1,073	74,571
1922	47,126	7,223	18,158	1,186	73,693
1923	46,614	7,331	17,661	1,185	72,791
1924	45,282	7,645	17,140	1,079	71,146
1925	43,590	8,036	16,670	1,047	69,343
1926	42,042	8,518	16,060	1,104	67,724
1927	41,422	9,141	15,490	1,184	67,237
1928	42,278	9,758	14,957	1,161	68,154
1929	43,408	10,309	14,481	1,157	69,355
1930	44,886	10,755	13,971	1,125	70,737
1931	46,894	10,734	13,478	1,170	72,276
1932	49,696	10,608	13,120	1,204	74,628
1933	52,542	10,739	12,918	1,157	77,356
1934	48,940	10,269	12,501	903	72,613
1935	48,140	10,150	12,067	977	71,334
1936	46,857	10,162	11,671	998	69,688
1937	46,050	10,140	11,195	971	68,356
1938	45,988	10,296	10,829	1,078	68,191
1939	47,805	10,453	10,595	1,210	70,063
1940	49,962	10,771	10,303	1,122	72,158
1941	52,807	11,151	10,009	1,248	75,215
1942	56,086	10,896	9,763	1,461	78,206
1943	58,963	10,053	9,318	1,610	79,944
1944	59,492	9,179	8,746	1,309	78,726
1945	57,514	8,305	8,188	1,340	75,347
1946	56,400	7,425	7,474	1,206	72,505
1947	54,216	6,811	6,829	1,163	69,019
1948	53,648	6,130	6,238	1,180	67,196
1949	54,349	5,955	5,695	1,242	67,241
1950	56,501	6,161	5,165	1,285	69,112
1951 3/	60,003	6,365	4,585	1,319	72,272

1/ Hay, pasture and other roughage consumed by one milk cow in a year equals one unit.
2/ Hogs and poultry.
3/ Preliminary

Digest of OPS and NPA Regulations Affecting Meat and Meat Animals

This list supplements those appearing in earlier issues of this *Situation*. These lists are compiled for their reference value now and in the future. Questions regarding the application of the regulations should be referred to the Agency administering them.

Issued by the Office of Price Stabilization, Economic Stabilization Agency

Regulation	Principal provisions
Distribution Procedural Regulation 1 Issued March 11, 1952 Effective March 17, 1952	Prescribes the procedure to be followed in the suspension and revocation of slaughtering registrations, and sets up the machinery for appeals from meat distribution orders.
Distribution Regulation 1 Revision 1 Issued March 11, 1952 Effective March 17, 1952	Clarifies and consolidates changes that have been made in DR 1 and makes various additional amendments.
Distribution Regulation 1 Revision 1 Amendment 1 Issued March 27, 1952 Effective March 27, 1952	Makes clear that documents filed with OPS under DR 1 are to be treated as if filed under DR 1, Rev. 1.
Distribution Regulation 2 Amendment 5 Issued March 25, 1952 Effective April 1, 1952	Exempts "baby lambs" from grading and grademarking requirements during April 1952.
General Ceiling Price Regulation Supplementary Regulation 97 Issued April 8, 1952 Effective April 8, 1952	Permits a small increase in the GCPR ceiling price for locally produced beef on the island of Hawaii.
Ceiling Price Regulation 2 Revision 2 Amendment 1 Issued April 25, 1952 Effective April 28, 1952	Suspends CPR 2, Rev. 2 (covering cattlehides, kips, calfskins and cut parts for leather) until prices rise to re-control levels or until terminated or modified by the Director of Price Stabilization.
Ceiling Price Regulation 14 Amendment 12 Issued March 20, 1952 Effective March 25, 1952	Grants wholesale grocers permission to add increased transportation costs to the present zone differentials or to present freight charges.
Ceiling Price Regulation 25 Revision 1 Interpretation 1 Issued March 31, 1952 Effective March 31, 1952	Defines the size of cuts which may be sold as boneless chuck (a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch cubes).

Continued - page 32.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar. Ave. 1951	Jan.-Mar. Ave. 1952	1951 March	1952 Feb.	1952 Mar.	1952 Apr.
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	39.29	37.14	40.03	37.07	37.58	
Choice	do.	35.81	34.65	36.67	34.57	34.69	
Good	do.	32.94	31.84	33.86	31.90	31.34	
Commercial	do.	30.80	28.96	31.97	29.12	28.17	
Utility	do.	28.61	26.19	29.96	26.46	25.38	
All grades	do.	34.87	33.81	35.62	33.78	33.41	
Omaha, all grades	do.	33.79	32.38	34.42	32.32	31.90	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	33.77	32.09	34.40	32.16	31.49	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	26.46	24.09	27.86	23.71	24.29	
Utility	do.	24.45	21.89	25.46	21.65	22.07	
Canner and Cutter	do.	21.28	19.09	22.19	18.98	19.26	
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	37.07	37.60	36.65	38.15	37.80	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	33.81	31.75	35.12	32.06	31.99	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	28.67	27.47	29.80	27.60	27.60	27.80
Veal calves	do.	32.23	31.60	33.20	31.90	31.40	31.10
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	21.35	17.00	21.16	16.82	16.59	
180-200 pounds	do.	22.18	17.89	21.89	17.94	17.22	
200-220 pounds	do.	22.23	17.93	22.12	18.02	17.36	
220-240 pounds	do.	22.11	17.66	22.11	17.70	17.15	
240-270 pounds	do.	21.82	17.19	22.02	17.20	16.78	
270-300 pounds	do.	21.44	16.71	21.76	16.73	16.34	
All weights	do.	21.79	17.30	21.94	17.33	16.77	
Eight markets 3/	do.	21.56	17.05	21.66	17.00	16.71	
Sows, Chicago	do.	18.90	15.12	19.54	15.18	15.11	
Price received by farmers	do.	21.03	17.10	21.20	17.20	16.70	16.40
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	12.3	9.3	12.4	9.6	9.1	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	13.3	10.3	13.2	10.4	10.1	
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	22.00	14.74	23.21	14.81	14.56	
Price received by farmers	do.	17.63	13.27	19.40	13.30	13.10	13.60
Lambs							
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	38.01	28.24	40.93	27.78	26.96	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	5/33.62	---	---	---	---	
Price received by farmers	do.	32.90	26.87	35.20	26.80	25.60	26.40
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		415	375	428	377	372	372
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	55.40	55.25	55.74	55.06	54.64	
Lamb carcass, Choice, 30-40 pounds	do.	54.77	6/54.13	55.15	6/52.19	6/53.00	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	23.60	19.20	23.85	18.88	18.83	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.40	26.36	32.74	25.92	25.85	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	26.60	22.25	26.69	21.82	22.00	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	37.30	31.20	37.42	30.59	30.85	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	84.3	87.7	84.8	87.9	86.9	
Lamb	do.	74.1	76.3	73.5	75.9	71.3	
Pork, including lard	do.	45.0	40.7	45.5	40.4	39.4	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		117	114	119	119	119	
Retail (1935-39=100) 7/		270	271	272	271	269	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1951.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Price for January 1951.
6/ Prices for Feb. and March are 40-50 lb. carcass.
7/ Index of retail meat prices, new weights.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-March 1951	Jan.-March 1952	1951 March	1952 Feb.	1952 Mar.	1952 Apr.
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		141	156	131	148	147	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 8 Corn Belt States							
Cattle and calves	1,000 head	433	434	131	158	143	
Sheep and lambs	do.	323	351	93	109	119	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	3,012	3,009	965	985	927	
Calves	do.	1,255	1,122	447	343	397	
Sheep and lambs	do.	2,536	3,004	738	990	971	
Hogs	do.	15,860	18,390	5,117	5,779	5,776	
Percentage sows	Percent						
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	1,016	1,012	1,007	1,013	1,004	
Calves	do.	177	188	162	191	173	
Sheep and lambs	do.	103	104	105	104	105	
Hogs	do.	246	244	240	245	239	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	556	564	557	567	561	
Veal, per head	do.	99	107	94	110	99	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	49	50	50	50	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	136	134	134	134	132	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	56	55	56	55	55	
Lard, per head	do.	36	37	34	38	37	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	14	16	16	
Total production							
Beef	Million pounds	1,667	1,688	535	556	518	
Veal	do.	124	119	42	37	39	
Lamb and mutton	do.	123	148	37	49	48	
Pork 2/	do.	2,151	2,463	684	771	760	
Lard	do.	571	682	176	221	213	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	1,000 head	4,102	4,110	1,301	1,326	1,275	
Calves	do.	2,173	1,996	761	614	700	
Sheep and lambs	do.	2,721	3,224	798	1,060	1,038	
Hogs	do.	19,274	22,331	6,168	7,048	7,005	
Total production							
Beef	Million pounds	2,188	2,217	696	721	685	
Veal	do.	220	211	73	66	70	
Lamb and mutton	do.	130	157	39	52	51	
Pork 2/	do.	2,586	2,952	817	930	909	
Lard	do.	653	780	201	252	245	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.	---	---	149	240	254	254
Veal	do.	---	---	8	16	12	19
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	---	9	14	14	16
Pork	do.	---	---	642	705	794	810
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.	---	---	918	1,096	1,210	1,237

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.
2/ Excludes lard.
3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-LMS-59-4/52-5300
Permit No. 1001

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

Regulation	Principal provisions
Ceiling Price Regulation 25, Revised Amendment 3 Issued April 10, 1952 Effective April 10, 1952	Grants retailers who have customarily made sales of primal cuts of beef in the past authority to make such sales. Also allows ceiling price adjustments for some route truck sellers of beef.
Ceiling Price Regulation 74 Amendment 2 Issued April 11, 1952 Effective April 16, 1952	Makes miscellaneous changes in CPR 74 primarilly easing the restrictions on wholesale sales of pork cuts. Extends the filing date for dried and specialty pork items to May 16.
Ceiling Price Regulation 92 Amendment 2 Issued March 7, 1952 Effective March 7, 1952	Makes a number of clarifications and changes in the regulation covering wholesale lamb, yearling and mutton.
Ceiling Price Regulation 92 Amendment 3 Issued March 25, 1952 Effective April 1, 1952	Sets up dollars-and-cents ceiling prices for baby lamb carcasses during the month of April 1952.
Ceiling Price Regulation 92 Amendment 4 Issued March 22, 1952 Effective March 22, 1952	Suspends the allocation provision of the lamb and mutton regulation (CPR 92) until further notice.
Ceiling Price Regulation 101 Amendment 2 Issued April 22, 1952 Effective April 28, 1952	Makes various changes in the provisions and pricing schedules of CPR 101. Permits experimental cutting and packaging of veal on a contract basis for defense procurement agencies.
Ceiling Price Regulation 124 Amendment 1 Issued March 10, 1952 Effective March 15, 1952	Limits the application of CPR 124 to territorial United States by excluding territories and possessions.
Ceiling Price Regulation 129 Issued March 14, 1952 Effective March 19, 1952	Places dollars-and-cents wholesale and retail ceiling prices on horsemeat and horsemeat products.